

## PRESS RELEASE



# The Cleveland Museum of Art

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April 19, 1982

FOR RELEASE AFTER 12:00 NOON  
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1982

THE 1982 MAY SHOW

April 21 - May 30, 1982

The Cleveland Museum of Art's 63rd annual May Show of works by artists of Ohio's Western Reserve reflects both the most recent trends and the more traditional methods of working in painting, printmaking, drawing, photography, sculpture, ceramics, and other crafts. On exhibit in the 1982 May Show are 181 works by 153 artists; they were selected from 2,367 entries submitted by 1,336 artists. Seven artists won special awards; works by fourteen others were cited for special mention by show jurors.

The \$1000 award for painting went to North Canton artist Patricia Zinsmeister Parker for The Boxmaker, a large work whose uneven surface is built up with numerous layers of oil paint. The painting's central image is a box with a lid, but several other images have been scratched into the surface or are visible through the layers of paint. Although sophisticated in composition and handling of paint, the work has a naive quality conveying, in the artist's words, "the sense of awkwardness which comes with constant struggle and exploration." Ms. Parker, who holds an M.F.A. degree from Kent State University, has exhibited in the May Show since 1976, winning special mentions in painting in 1976, 1978, 1979, and 1980.

The \$1000 award for sculpture was divided equally between two artists working in ceramics, Mary Jo Bole and J.P. Sires. Their works illustrate the recent interest of ceramic artists in creating non-utilitarian objects which are characterized as sculpture rather than craft. Mary Jo Bole received \$500 for two

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textured and brightly glazed works in earthenware clay, both untitled. Ms. Bole this year received an M.F.A. degree from Alfred University, where she is currently a teaching assistant. She has exhibited in the 1980 and 1981 May Shows.

J.P. Sires's award-winning ceramic sculpture, Environment #11, is small in scale but monumental in feeling, with a rough crackled and pitted glazed surface. Sires majored in ceramics at Kent State University and is presently studying at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. He has also exhibited in previous May Shows.

For the sixth consecutive year, the \$1000 award in graphics was split between two artists. It was not, however, shared with photography as it has been for the past five years because of the strength of the graphics category this year. The award went to two large and ambitious drawings. Sally Lochridge's In the Heart of the Heart of the Country, executed in pastel, gesso, and colored pencil, has references to automobiles, birds, and landscape as well as linear and checkerboard designs, all worked into an intricately patterned surface. Ms. Lochridge is a fourth year drawing major at the Cleveland Institute of Art.

The other half of the graphics prize went to Judith Pittenger-Meyer for Le Cauchemar, a mixed media work juxtaposing images of tigers, scissors, moonscape, masks, streamers, confetti, and other recognizable forms in a colorful and complex composition. Ms. Pittenger-Meyer holds an M.F.A. from the University of Illinois and teaches drawing and design at the University of Akron. She has exhibited widely, receiving a number of awards for her work, including a special mention in graphics in the 1981 May Show.

Fran Soika, of Novelty, Ohio, won the \$1000 award for crafts for March of the Dromedary, a large cotton applique and reverse applique quilt, brightly colored, with bold geometric patterns and engaging camel shapes in profile. Ms. Soika, who is self-taught, had a quilt in the 1980 May Show and has exhibited

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her work throughout the state, winning numerous awards during her more than twenty years of quilt-making.

The Horace E. Potter Memorial Award for Excellence in Craftsmanship was given to Edward S. Wohl, a first-time May Show entrant, for his beautifully designed and finely crafted cherry wood cradle. Mr. Wohl, a native of Cleveland with a bachelor's degree in architecture from Washington University, St. Louis, now has a woodworking studio in Ridgeway, Wisconsin.

Sixteen other works by fourteen artists were cited for special mention. Six special mentions went to paintings by Ruth A. Lyons, Edwin Mieczkowski, Scott Miller, John Pearson, Andrew A. Raz, and Audrey Skuodas. There were five special mentions in graphics for works by Hugh Kepets (for two entries), George Kozmon, Jr. (two entries), and Harland Shunk III. In photography, four works--by Herbert Ascherman, Jr., Lisa Dietz, Nikki Klem, and Sheila Webb--were cited. Peggy Spaeth was the only artist to receive a special mention for crafts, although, as Tom Hinson, curator of contemporary art at the Museum, points out, the crafts accepted this year are of a consistently high quality.

Works in the May Show were selected by members of the Museum's professional staff and two outside jurors. Suzanne Delehanty, director of the Neuberger Museum of the State University of New York at Purchase, served on the jury for paintings, sculpture, graphics, and photography. Lois Moran, editor of American Craft magazine, assisted in judging the craft entries.

Tom Hinson served as coordinator of the May Show for the tenth consecutive year. As he writes in the Museum's May Bulletin, which catalogs the exhibition, "The May Show is consistently one of the best competitive regional exhibitions due to northeastern Ohio's large community of talented visual artists." He adds that both paintings and graphics deserve special mention this year because they contain "numerous expressive and imaginative works."

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The May Show can be viewed everyday except Monday when the Museum is closed.

The May Show galleries will be open Friday evenings until 10 pm throughout the exhibition. All galleries in the Museum are open on Wednesday evenings until 10 pm.

Gallery talks on the May Show will be given at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, April 21, and Sunday, April 25, by John Moore, assistant curator in the Museum's department of art history and education. Mr. Moore is presenting other activities associated with the May Show. He will lecture on the works of prominent Cleveland painters and sculptors including Vivien Abrams, Moe Brooker, Edwin Mieczkowski, John Pearson, and Sue Wall. These lectures, titled Cleveland Artists Update, are scheduled on two Tuesday afternoons, May 11 and 18, at 1:30 pm, and will be repeated on two Wednesday evenings, May 19 and 26, at 8:30 pm. On Wednesday, May 12, at 10:30 am, Mr. Moore will give a brief history of past May Shows and an overview of this year's exhibition in the May Show 1982: The Gallery Group Lecture. All of these activities are free and open to everyone.

WVIZ-TV 25 has produced a 30-minute special on the May Show scheduled to air on Sunday, May 2, at 6:30 pm and to repeat on Tuesday, May 4, at 10:30 pm, over Channel 25.

The 1982 May Show is assisted by a grant from the Ohio Arts Council.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.